



INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

FEBRUARY 2016

Tuesday, February 2, 2016

8:30 a.m. Member Hike – Free ABF Member Hike

3.5 Hours



Join ABF for our weekly member hikes. Led by Park Rangers, retired Park Rangers, and various Park enthusiasts, these hikes will take you to little-known but fairly easily accessible spots throughout the northern area of the Park. Meet at the State Park Store, located in The Mall. These hikes are a free perk for ABF members. Not a member? Ask about joining at the Visitor Center or State Park Store. Visit www.theabf.org/2016-member-hikes or call 760-767-0446 ext 1003. No advance registration required.

10 ish 'til noon - Roving Naturalist in Borrego Palm Canyon

2 Hours

This is not a guided hike. Volunteer Naturalist Aleese Golding will be roaming the Borrego Palm Canyon Alternate Trail searching for bighorn sheep and other interesting features. Look for her in her volunteer vest and join in her exploration.



Wednesday, February 3, 2016

5:00 p.m. Walk ♿ – Desert Inspiration

1 Hour

Join Regina Reiter, Park Interpretive Specialist, for a sensory exploration of the desert in words and color, to nourish your connection with the rugged beauty of the desert. This hands-on experience makes it surprisingly easy to enhance your enjoyment of the desert. Meet at the entrance to the Visitor Center.

Thursday, February 4, 2016

9:00 a.m. Hike – Harper Flat

4.5 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists Paul Larson and Mary Ekelund on a moderate 3-mile hike up Pinyon Wash to Harper Flat. There will be a few large boulders to negotiate at the beginning of the hike, but the wash provides enough water to support many beautiful desert plants. Meet at the intersection of Pinyon Wash and Highway 78 in order to carpool in 4WD vehicles for a few miles back to the trailhead.

5:00 p.m. Walk ♿ – Let's Be "Crepuscular"!

1 Hour

You probably know "Nocturnal", maybe even "Diurnal" animals. Walk with Regina Reiter, Park Interpretive Specialist, near the Visitor Center at dusk to explore the fascinating and surprisingly active hour between the day and the night. Meet in front of the Visitor Center.

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(OPEN DAILY 9 AM to 5 PM) ♿ DENOTES PROGRAMS ACCESSIBLE TO DISABLED.

PLEASE CALL AHEAD FOR SPECIAL NEEDS ACCOMMODATION, (760) 767-4205.

DOGS ARE NOT PERMITTED ON TRAILS OR TOURS.



INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

FEBRUARY 2016

Friday, February 5, 2016

7:30 p.m. Talk ♿ – Enjoy Anza-Borrego's Dark Night Sky!

1.5 Hours

Winter evenings are perfect for Stargazing! Explore constellations and learn about the importance of dark skies everywhere. Bring warm clothing, a chair or blanket to sit on, binoculars if you have them and flashlight (red lens is preferable, to preserve night vision). Telescope viewing of galaxies, star clusters, and nebulae if weather permits. Meet on the roof of the Visitor Center.



Saturday, February 6, 2016

11:00 a.m. Walk ♿ – Garden Walk

45 Min.

Join a Visitor Center Interpreter who will take you on a stroll through the Visitor Center Garden to discover some of our special desert plants.

12:00 noon Hike – Discovering the Archaeological History of the 'Ehmuu Morteros

2 Hours

Discover the hidden secrets of an ancient Kumeyaay Native American village site. Join Volunteer Archaeologist and Naturalist Sam Webb to explore both rock art and historic milling features. This 1.5 mile hike is over uneven terrain. Be sure to bring the usual water, hat, and sturdy footwear. Meet at the Morteros trailhead in Blair Valley, about 3 miles off Highway S-2 on a dirt road (turn into Blair Valley near mile marker 23).

2:00 p.m. Walk ♿ - Junior Rangers

1 Hour

Special program for children ages 7-12. Discover secrets of the desert environment. Sign up at the Visitor Center as space is limited.

4:30 p.m. Event ♿ – Photo Contest Opening Reception

2.5 Hours

Join ABF and Borrego Art Institute as we celebrate the opening of the 2016 Anza-Borrego Desert Photo Contest Gallery Display. The photographs will be displayed at Borrego Art Institute, 665 Palm Canyon Dr, Borrego Springs. The Judges' Critique session will begin at 4:30 p.m. and the Gallery Show will begin at 5:00 p.m. Go to www.theABF.org/events or call Ashley at 760-767-0446 ext 1003 for more information.



7:30 p.m. Campfire Program ♿ – The Amazing Adaptations of Anza-Borrego

1 Hour

Join Ranger Joshua and his trusted truck "Badge" for a picture ride-along at the Borrego Palm Canyon Campfire Center.



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INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

FEBRUARY 2016

Sunday, February 7, 2016

7:30 a.m. Walk – Bird Walk

1.5 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalist Ann Keenan for a walk around the Visitor Center vicinity looking for the common birds of our desert. All birding levels welcome. Meet in the Visitor Center parking lot. Please bring binoculars. Rain cancels.



9:00 a.m. Talk & -Roving Ranger

1 Hour



Meet Roving Ranger Steve at the Anticline in Fish Creek Wash (approx. 3.8 miles from paved Split Mountain Road) to learn and share in some of Anza-Borrego Desert State Park's extraordinary backcountry locations. We will Speak of Ancient Voices, sift through stories in stone, and seek the Wild in wildlife. High clearance 4 X 4 is required.

9:00 a.m. Hike – Hikes & Hops at West Butte Borrego Mountain

5 Hours

Join ABF and Scott Turner, Co-Author of the new edition of Afoot and Afield in San Diego County, for an adventure-filled loop at the West Butte of Borrego Mountain. Hike is 3-4 miles. To register, or for more information, visit <http://www.theabf.org/events> or call 760-767-0446 ext 1003.

Monday, February 8, 2016

10:00 a.m. Lecture - & - Botany Society

1 Hour

Come to the Visitor Center Discovery Lab for the Botany Society's monthly public lecture, **Physiological and Biochemical Adaptations for Drought Resistance in Desert Plants** by Dr. Don Fosket.

Tuesday, February 9, 2016

8:30 a.m. Member Hike – Free ABF Member Hike

3.5 Hours



Join ABF for our weekly member hikes. Led by Park Rangers, retired Park Rangers, and various Park enthusiasts, these hikes will take you to little-known but fairly easily accessible spots throughout the northern area of the Park. Meet at the State Park Store, located in The Mall. These hikes are a free perk for ABF members. Not a member? Ask about joining at the Visitor Center or State Park Store. Visit www.theabf.org/2016-member-hikes or call 760-767-0446 ext 1003. No advance registration required.

Wednesday, February 10, 2016

9:00 a.m. Hike – Ash Wash

4 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists Paul Larson and Ted Caragozian for a moderately strenuous hike over uneven and rocky ground to a spectacular exposure of the 760,000 year-old Bishop Ash. Along the way we'll see some interesting remains of pioneer habitation. Wear sturdy shoes; bring water and a light lunch. Meet at the end of the pavement north on Di Giorgio Road.

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INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

FEBRUARY 2016

Wednesday, February 10, 2016 (*continued*)

11:00 a.m. Garden Talk - Desert Lavender

20 minutes repeating for 2 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalist Laura Roderick for this introductory exploration of one of the fascinating native herbs of the Desert. Learn how the Native Americans used Desert Lavender for remedies and how modern science backs up their effectiveness.

Thursday, February 11, 2016

9:00 a.m. Hike – California Riding and Hiking Trail Loop

3 Hours

Join Paul Larson and Mary Ekelund for a moderately strenuous 3-mile hike up the California Riding and Hiking Trail to a wonderful view over the basin to the east. We'll see some interesting plants and geological features along the way and return via the old trail. Meet at Hellhole parking lot on Hwy S-22, 1/2 mile west of the junction with Palm Canyon Dr. Bring water, hat, and sturdy hiking boots.

2:00 p.m. Talk – Cosmic Recycling: Geological Highlights of the Anza-Borrego Region

1 Hour

Southern California has a rich and varied geological history. Volunteer Naturalist Ted Caragozian will relate some of the fascinating local lore and how it ties into the larger picture. Meets in the Discovery Lab at the Visitor Center.

Friday, February 12, 2016

8:30 a.m. Hike – Elephant Tree Safari

3 Hours

The Elephant Tree, which is common south of the border, is rarely found in California. The largest "herd" resides in Alma Wash in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park. Come join Volunteer Naturalist Ted Caragozian for a moderate, somewhat rocky, 3-mile ramble to observe the Elephant Tree in its natural, alluvial-fan habitat. Meet at the Elephant Trees Trail parking area off Split Mountain Road. Participants without 4WD, high-clearance vehicles can park below the trailhead and walk the rest of the way up the one-mile dirt road.

10:00 a.m. Talk – Paleontology Lecture

2 Hours

Join the Paleontology Society for their monthly lecture series. Open to the public. Meet in the Discovery Lab at the Visitor Center.

1:00 p.m. Talk – Murders and Unkindnesses

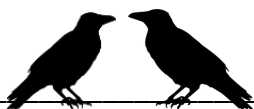
1 Hour


Join Volunteer Naturalist Jeff Salton to discover the remarkable differences between crows and ravens and explore some of the mystery and intrigue in the world of birds.

2:30 p.m. Hike – Stroll into the Sunset Wash

3 Hours

Sunset Wash is a picturesque example of the canyons that drain out of the Vallecito Mountains. Come join Volunteer Naturalist Ted Caragozian for a moderately-paced 3-mile exploration over somewhat rocky terrain. Meet at the entrance to Nude Wash, off Highway 78, about 0.25 mile east of call box 78-822 and just west of the road sign listing the mileage to Ocotillo Wells.



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INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

FEBRUARY 2016

Saturday, February 13, 2016

8:30 a.m. Hike – Ghost Mountain

2.5 Hours



Experience the Marshal South story on this trek up Ghost Mountain with Volunteer Naturalist Dan Leidecker. The hike is steep but relatively short (1 mile up, 1 mile down) and offers a glimpse into the family's life on this remote mountaintop. Bring water, a snack, hat and sturdy footwear. Meet Dan at the Blair Valley entrance (turn off highway S2 near milemarker 23, at the Butterfield Stage sign). **Prehike Add-on:** Meet at Shelter Valley Community Center for breakfast with Dan at 7:45.

9:00 a.m. Hike – Elephant Knees

5.5 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists Ted Caragozian and Paul Larson for a strenuous hike up to a remarkable outcrop of marine fossils about 4 million years old and a great view of the Fish Creek Badlands. Meet at the junction of Fish Creek Wash and Split Mountain Road at the end of the payment. We'll carpool from there in 4WD vehicles.

2:00 p.m. Junior Rangers

1 Hour

Special program for children ages 7-12. Discover secrets of the desert environment. Sign up at the Visitor Center as space is limited.



4:00 p.m. Walk - Panoramic Overlook


2 Hours

Meet Park Interpretive Specialist Regina Reiter at the Visitor Center to walk across the desert and up the Panoramic Overlook Trail for good views of the Borrego Valley and Font's Point. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water.

7:30 p.m. Campfire Program - Mystery Cat: Anza-Borrego's Elusive Mountain Lion 45 Minutes

Join volunteer naturalist Don Endicott for a 45-minute multi-media introduction to the natural history of the Park's seldom seen apex predator. Don's talk will describe the amazing attributes and signature behaviors of our big cats, show how relationships between Mountain Lions and people changed over time, and outline their key contributions to a healthy wilderness environment. Meet at the campfire center in Borrego Palm Canyon campground.



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INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

FEBRUARY 2016

Sunday, February 14, 2016

8:00 a.m. – Strenuous Hike – Mike’s Hike up Granite Peak

9 Hours

Join ABF and fitness enthusiast Mike Puzzo on a strenuous trek up Granite Peak, the mountain towering over Shelter Valley near the Scissor’s Crossing area of the Park. Advance registration required. \$45 / \$35 for ABF Members. You must register in advance for this program, no exceptions. Go to www.theABF.org/events or call 760-767-0446 ext 1003.

8:30 a.m. Hike - Roving Naturalist in Borrego Palm Canyon

3 Hours

Volunteer Naturalist Dan Leidecker will be roaming the Borrego Palm Canyon Trail searching for bighorn sheep and other interesting features along the trail. Look for him in his volunteer vest as you hike to the palm oasis. This is not a guided hike.



9:00 a.m. Walk ♿ – Waiting for Rain

1 Hour

Get to know some of the surprises waiting for rain in the Anza-Borrego Desert. Hear about the winter rains (*Equipatas*) that decide if there will be desert wildflowers and the summer rains (*Las Aguas*) that bring flashfloods. Meet Ranger Heidi at the entrance to the Culp Valley Primitive Camp Ground for an easy stroll on the Culp Valley All-Access Trail.

11:00 a.m. Talk ♿ - Mystery Cat: Anza-Borrego’s Elusive Mountain Lion

45 Minutes

Join volunteer naturalist Don Endicott for a 45-minute multi-media introduction to the natural history of the Park's seldom seen apex predator. Don's talk will describe the amazing attributes and signature behaviors of our big cats, show how relationships between Mountain Lions and people changed over time, and outline their key contributions to a healthy wilderness environment.

2 p.m. Talk ♿ - Geology for Creative Thinkers

1 Hour

Explore the basic rock types found in Anza-Borrego Desert State Park and the geologic processes that shaped them in a fun, hands-on way. Join Park interpretive Specialist, Regina Reiter, at the Park Visitor Center for a rockin’ good time. No previous geology vocabulary is necessary.

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INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

FEBRUARY 2016

Monday, February 15, 2016

10:00 a.m. Walk ♿ – Garden Walk

45 Min.

Join a Visitor Center Interpreter who will take you on a stroll through the Visitor Center Garden to discover some of our special desert plants.

Tuesday, February 16, 2016

8:30 a.m. Member Hike – Free ABF Member Hike

3.5 Hours



Join ABF for our weekly member hikes. Led by Park Rangers, retired Park Rangers, and various Park enthusiasts, these hikes will take you to little-known but fairly easily accessible spots throughout the northern area of the Park. Meet at the State Park Store, located in The Mall. These hikes are a free perk for ABF members. Not a member? Ask about joining at the Visitor Center or State Park Store. Visit www.theabf.org/2016-member-hikes or call 760-767-0446 ext 1003. No advance registration required.

10 ish 'til noon Hike - Roving Naturalist in Borrego Palm Canyon

2 Hours

This is not a guided hike. Volunteer Naturalist Aleese Golding will be roaming the Borrego Palm Canyon Alternate Trail searching for bighorn sheep and other interesting features. Look for her in her volunteer vest and join in her exploration

Wednesday, February 17, 2016

11:00 a.m. Garden Talk ♿ - Desert Lavender

20 minutes repeating for 2 Hours

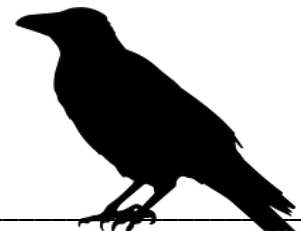
Join Volunteer Naturalist Laura Roderick for this introductory exploration of one of the fascinating native herbs of the Desert. Learn how the Native Americans used Desert Lavender for remedies and how modern science backs up their effectiveness.

Thursday, February 18, 2016

7:30 a.m. Walk ♿ - Beaks and Feet

1 Hour

If you've always wanted to learn about birds but thought it's too complicated and only for birding experts, you'll enjoy this simple way of appreciating the birds! Join Regina Reiter, Park Interpretive Specialist, in the Visitor Center Discovery Lab for this hands-on discovery session and get a close look at birds in an around the Visitor Center. For bird lovers 8 and up with no previous birding experience necessary. Bring binoculars if you have them.



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INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

FEBRUARY 2016

Thursday, February 18, 2016 (continued)

9:00 a.m. Hike - Hornblende Canyon

4 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists Paul Larson and Mary Ekelund on a moderate hike in Hornblende Canyon. We'll check out wildflowers along the way as we enjoy one of the most beautiful but overlooked canyons in the Park. Bring hiking stick(s), ample water, hiking boots and lunch. Meet at entrance to Blair Valley at 9am. Hike is about 4 miles.

11:00 a.m. Walk ♿ – Rainbow Any Day

1 Hour

Even when it's not raining, you can discover a rainbow of color in the desert. Join Park Interpretive Specialist Regina Reiter to explore how color occurs and reveals the details of the desert that we often only glimpse. Meet in front of the Visitor Center.

2:30 p.m. Hike – Lute Fault

3 Hours

Earthquake geology, local history and desert plant life will be the focus of this hike. Meet Volunteer Naturalist Ted Caragozian at the call box across from Thimble Trail on S-22 at Mile Marker 31.9. Bring water and sturdy shoes for this 2-3 mile roundtrip hike on uneven ground.

Friday, February 19, 2016

8:30 a.m. Hike – Calcite Canyon Spectacular

5-6 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalist Ted Caragozian and explore the sandstone canyon country around the Calcite Mine. You will follow the Middle Fork of Palm Wash up over some small dry falls to a slot canyon, check out the mine, and see a demonstration of calcite's interesting optical properties. Meet at the Calcite Mine Road, mile marker 38.1, east on Highway S-22. Parking is available on both sides of the highway. Wear sturdy footwear, a hat, and carry water. This hike is rated moderately strenuous.

10:00 a.m. Talk ♿ – Murders and Unkindnesses

1 Hour

Join Volunteer Naturalist Jeff Salton to discover the remarkable differences between crows and ravens and explore some of the mystery and intrigue in the world of birds.



Saturday, February 20, 2016

7:30 a.m. Walk – Bird Walk

1.5 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalist Ann Keenan for a walk around the Visitor Center vicinity looking for the common birds of our desert. All birding levels welcome. Meet in the Visitor Center parking lot. Please bring binoculars. Rain cancels.

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INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

FEBRUARY 2016

Saturday, February 20, 2016 (continued)

9:00 a.m. Hike – Culp Valley Wander

3 Hours

Take a walk in one of the favorite areas of Anza-Borrego that features a historic spring, an awesome scenic overlook, and beautiful boulders. Meet Park Interpretive Specialist, Regina Reiter, at the entrance to Culp Valley Campground between Mile Markers 9 and 9.5 on highway S-22. This hike is rated moderate. Wear sturdy shoes, long sleeves, and a sun hat. Bring a snack and a quart of water to carry plus another quart to leave in your car for afterward.

10:00 a.m. Ranger Program – Santa Catarina Tailgate Talk

1 Hour

Meet Ranger Callan at the Santa Catarina Historical Marker near the top of the Bypass Road in Coyote Canyon to share some of the history of the Coyote Canyon area. Four wheel drive required.

1:00 p.m. Walk ♿ – Garden Walk

45 Min.

Join a Visitor Center Interpreter who will take you on a stroll through the Visitor Center Garden to discover some of our special desert plants.

2:00 p.m. Junior Rangers ♿

45 Min.

Special program for children ages 7-12. Discover secrets of the desert environment. Sign up at the Visitor Center as space is limited.

3:00 p.m. Hike – Sunset/Moonlight Hike

5 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalists Ted Caragozian and Paul Larson for a desert hike to enjoy the sunset over the mountains and return under the nearly full moon to get a different perspective of the desert at a surprise location. Bring warm clothes and a flashlight (to be used only if necessary). We will cover as much as six miles and the daylight portion will involve walking over uneven ground. Limited to 15 participants – please sign-up at the Visitor Center and include your phone number to receive meeting details.

7:30 p.m. Campfire Program ♿ – Owls: The Eyes into Your Culture

1 Hour

Ranger D.L. Stephen takes you on a journey exploring why owls are important to numerous cultures. *This is not your typical campfire program* but takes you back to a time when people gathered around a campfire, telling stories. This story tells the tale of the night's silent hunters' position in different cultures' mythology through the use of various forms of puppetry.



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INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

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Sunday, February 21, 2016

10:30 a.m. Talk – In Search of the Elusive Elephant Tree

30 Min.

The seldom-seen, endangered elephant tree survives in only a few scattered and isolated spots in California. Join Volunteer Naturalist Karen Cormier at the Visitor Center to find out how to identify these distinctive trees, hear why Native Americans valued the trees, and discover where you can look for elephant tree herds “in the wild”.

11:00 a.m. Talk – Solve the Desert Water Puzzle: Cart Activity 10 Minutes repeating for 1 Hour

Do you know what it means to “take plenty of water”? Meet Volunteer Naturalist Karen Cormier in front of the Visitor Center to solve The Water Puzzle and learn how to calculate your water needs for your visit to the Park. Stop by for ten minutes to develop your “water aptitude”.

12:00 noon Hike – Discovering the Archaeological History of the ‘Ehmuu Morteros 2 Hours

Discover the hidden secrets of an ancient Kumeyaay Native American village site. Join Volunteer Archaeologist and Naturalist Sam Webb to explore both rock art and historic milling features. This 1.5 mile hike is over uneven terrain. Be sure to bring the usual water, hat, and sturdy footwear. Meet at the Morteros trailhead in Blair Valley, about 3 miles off Highway S-2 on a dirt road (turn into Blair Valley near mile marker 23).

1:00 p.m. Walk - Rainbow Any Day

1 Hour

Even when it’s not raining, you can discover a rainbow of color in the desert. Join Park Interpretive Specialist, Regina Reiter, for a unique view of the desert nearby the Visitor Center, exploring how color occurs and reveals the details of the desert that we often only glimpse. Meet in front of the Visitor Center.

5:00 p.m. Walk – Let’s Be “Crepuscular”!

1 Hour



You probably know “Nocturnal”, maybe even “Diurnal” animals. Walk with Regina Reiter, Park Interpretive Specialist, near the Visitor Center at dusk to explore the fascinating and surprisingly active hour between the day and the night. Meet in front of the Visitor Center.


Tuesday, February 23, 2016

8:30 a.m. Member Hike – Free ABF Member Hike

3.5 Hours



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Tuesday, February 23, 2016 (*continued*)

10 ish 'til noon Hike - Roving Naturalist in Borrego Palm Canyon

2 Hours

This is not a guided hike. Volunteer Naturalist Aleese Golding will be roaming the Borrego Palm Canyon Alternate Trail searching for bighorn sheep and other interesting features. Look for her in her volunteer vest and join in her exploration.

Wednesday, February 24, 2016

11:00 a.m. Garden Talk ♿ - Desert Lavender

20 minutes repeating for 2 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalist Laura Roderick for this introductory exploration of one of the fascinating native herbs of the Desert. Learn how the Native Americans used Desert Lavender for remedies and how modern science backs up their effectiveness.

6:30 p.m. Talk ♿ - What Makes the Moon Change?

30 Minutes

Come inside the Visitor Center for a demonstration of the reason we see the shape of the moon change each month and learn about the features that make the "Man in the Moon".

7:00 p.m. Talk ♿ - The Moon Rises!

1 Hour

Watch the sky during the hour of the Moon's rising. Bring out your lawn chair, binoculars and a red-filtered flashlight and meet on the Visitor Center Roof, the "Bridge," for star and moon gazing. Dress warmly for welcoming this month's moon.



Thursday, February 25, 2016

9:00 a.m. Hike – Cool Canyon

4 Hours

Join Mary Ekelund and Paul Larson on a cool trip up Cool Canyon. We'll hike up many dry falls in the higher country where the flora is different from that of the desert floor. Meet at the intersection of County Highway S-2 and the first dirt road to the west, south of the Park boundary sign just beyond Shelter Valley. Four-wheel drive is not required. Bring water and wear sturdy shoes.

11:00 a.m. Walk ♿ – Rainbow Any Day

1 Hour

Even when it's not raining, you can discover a rainbow of color in the desert. Join Park Interpretive Specialist Regina Reiter for a unique view of the desert nearby the Visitor Center, exploring how color occurs and reveals the details of the desert that we often only glimpse. Meet in front of the Visitor Center.

2:00 p.m. Talk ♿ – Colorado Desert Archaeological Society

1 Hour

Join the Society for their monthly public lecture, "Protecting Cultural Resources in Joshua Tree National Park" with Dr Jason Theuer, Chief of Cultural Resources at Joshua Tree N.P. He will talk about the unique cultural issues associated with Joshua Tree. Visitor Center Discovery Lab.

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Thursday, February 25, 2016 (*continued*)

4:00 p.m. Walk - Panoramic Overlook

2 Hours

Meet Park Interpretive Specialist Regina Reiter at the Visitor Center to walk across the desert and up the Panoramic Overlook Trail for good views of the Borrego Valley and Font's Point. Wear sturdy shoes and bring water.

Friday, February 26, 2016 and Saturday, February 27, 2016

6:00 p.m. Talk – Wildlife Survey Volunteer Training: An Introduction to Tracking I

2 Hours

If you've always wanted to learn more about identifying wildlife sign in San Diego County, then this is your chance! This FREE class prepares you to participate in San Diego Tracking Team (SDTT) surveys that monitor the wildlife in major space preserves and other critical areas. Our emphasis in this training will be the animals of our desert area. You will learn about basic track and scat identification, animal gaits, habitat fragmentation, survey transects, data collection protocols and conservation. At the end of the class, you will be able to sign up to join experienced trackers on some of SDTT's wildlife surveys throughout the San Diego area. Saturday morning we will go into the field (see Saturday, January 27). Get more information and sign up at the Visitor Center. For questions, please contact Donna Ghosh: 858-342-7437; donna.ghosh@gmail.com; or Beth Shugan: 760-767-5692; bshugan@gmail.com.

Saturday, February 27, 2016

7:30 a.m. Walk – Bird Walk

1.5 Hours

Join Volunteer Naturalist Ann Keenan for a walk around the Visitor Center vicinity looking for the common birds of our desert. All birding levels welcome. Meet in the Visitor Center parking lot. Please bring binoculars. Rain cancels.



8:00 a.m. Walk —Wildlife Survey Volunteer Training: Introduction to Tracking II

4 Hours

This is the second part of the Wildlife Survey Volunteer Training. We will go into the field looking for tracks and scat and other sign of animals.

10:00 a.m. Auto Tour – Ranger Encounters with Ranger Don


1.5 Hours

Meet at Mt. Palm Springs Camp Ground in the south end of the park to tour the mud caves of Arroyo Tapiado. 4 X 4 vehicles recommended.

11:00 a.m. Garden Walk - Petals, Leaves, and Pollen

1 Hour

Knowing all the desert flowers can be frustrating and overwhelming. Join Park Interpretive Specialist, Regina Reiter to discover an imaginative and satisfying way to name the flowers, plus a key sense for confidently engaging with Nature.

UNLESS NOTED, ALL PROGRAMS ARE FREE OF CHARGE AND HELD AT THE VISITOR CENTER
(OPEN DAILY 9 AM to 5 PM)  DENOTES PROGRAMS ACCESSIBLE TO DISABLED.

PLEASE CALL AHEAD FOR SPECIAL NEEDS ACCOMMODATION, (760) 767-4205.

DOGS ARE NOT PERMITTED ON TRAILS OR TOURS.



INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

FEBRUARY 2016

Saturday, February 27, 2016 (*continued*)

2:00 p.m. Junior Rangers ♿

45 Min.

Special program for children ages 7-12. Discover secrets of the desert environment. Sign up at the Visitor Center as space is limited.

3:30 p.m. Education Program ♿ – The Whipple Expedition

1.5 Hours



In September 1849 an expedition of nearly 100 U.S. government surveyors, soldiers, cavalry and support staff left San Diego and crossed the Anza-Borrego Desert to the Colorado River, and they returned three months later. The “Whipple Expedition” was named for the head surveyor, Lt.

Amiel W. Whipple, and included the leader of an Army escort, Lt. Cave J. Couets, and the famous botanical collector Dr. Charles C. Parry. This presentation by James Lightner will describe the expedition and highlight new information from Dr. Parry’s recently published Notebooks, including details about the natural resources, plants and agriculture. It will also examine historical events surrounding the expedition such as the end of the Mexican-American War, the drawing of the boundary and the emergence of the Southern Emigrant Trail. Free & open to the public. Limited seating. Visitor Center Discovery Lab.

7:30 p.m. Campfire Program ♿ – Getting the “Bad” Out of the Badlands

1 Hour

Join Ranger Mike at the Borrego Palm Canyon Campfire Center for an evening campfire program to explore the Badlands. Find out why the Badlands aren’t so bad.

Sunday, February 28, 2016

10:30 a.m. Talk ♿ – In Search of the Elusive Elephant Tree

30 Min.

The seldom-seen, endangered elephant tree survives in only a few scattered and isolated spots in California. Join Volunteer Naturalist Karen Cormier at the Visitor Center to find out how to identify these distinctive trees, hear why Native Americans valued the trees, and discover where you can look for elephant tree herds “in the wild”.

3:00 p.m. Walk ♿ – Rainbow Any Day

1 Hour

Even when it’s not raining, you can discover a rainbow of color in the desert. Join Park Interpretive Specialist Regina Reiter for a unique view of the desert nearby the Visitor Center, exploring how color occurs and reveals the details of the desert that we often only glimpse. Meet in front of the Visitor Center.



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INTERPRETIVE ACTIVITIES

FEBRUARY 2016

DESERT SAFETY



✓ **Carry water AND drink it**

Saving your water for the hike back has led to death in Anza-Borrego. Drink plenty of water before you leave home, while you hike, and on the return route. If you feel thirsty, it is already too late. Drink lots of water and drink often.

✓ **Make sure your vehicle is desert-ready.**

Equip your vehicle for the desert. You should always carry extra water, a shade tarp, a shovel, a tire pump, and extra food.

✓ **Prepare yourself.**

In addition to carrying water, you should have protective clothing, sunscreen, a hat, a good map, food and a first aid kit which includes a comb and tweezers.

✓ **Do not split up the group**

Stay together. Never leave anyone behind to rest.

✓ **Have a plan.**

Leave all your trip information with a friend. Tell him/her your destination, the route you intend to follow, your expected return time, a description of your vehicle with license plate number, and the time by which he/she should notify park authorities in case you do not return.

✓ **Leave snakes alone.**

Many venomous snakes live in the desert. If you threaten them, they may strike. It is illegal to harass, catch, or kill any snake within Anza-Borrego. If bitten, remain calm and seek immediate medical attention.

✓ **When emergencies happen ...**

Stop. Stay calm. Seek shelter. If you are with your vehicle, remain there; do not leave it. Signal with mirrors, white cloth, whistle (three short blasts on a whistle, pause, then three more, repeat frequently), and put your hood up. It is much easier to find a vehicle in the desert than a person!!!

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